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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,910	04/13/2004	Ted Andrew Peters	MSFT-3490/307339.01	3570
41505 7590 06/26/2007 WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			EXAMINER ABDUL-ALI, OMAR R	
			ART UNIT 2178	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/822,910	PETERS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Omar Abdul-Ali	2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/04, 02/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

The following action is in response to the original filing of April 13, 2004. Claims 1-38 are pending and have been considered below.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

2. Claims 1-17, and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-17 claim a "system" which appears to be a computer program system. A computer program is not a series of steps or acts and this is not a process. A computer program is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. A computer program is not a combination of substances and therefore not a compilation of matter. Thus, a computer program by itself that is not embodied on a computer readable medium does not fall within any of the four categories of invention. Therefore, Claims 1-17 are not statutory.

Claims 35-38 are drawn to a computer readable medium, which the applicant has defined in the specification (page 5, paragraph 22) to encompass a carrier wave. The Office considers a carrier wave to be a form of energy. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and this is not a process. Energy is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not a combination of substances and

therefore not a compilation of matter. Thus, a carrier wave does not fall within any of the four categories of invention. Therefore, Claims 35-38 are not statutory.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelnur et al. (US 6,429,882).

Claim 1: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses binding commands to business objects (column 9, lines 55-67), but does not explicitly disclose a data binding engine receives and evaluates the binding statement. However, a data binding engine is considered software that processes instructions, and Abdelnur suggests processing binding instructions using software. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a data binding mechanism in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a data binding engine receiving the binding statement in order to process the instructions created to bind commands with elements.

Abdelnur discloses an update command for updating the attributes of an object (column 9, lines 55-67). In this case, the update command updates the target element to a value associated with the command, as recited in Claim 1.

5. Claims 2-8, 11-17, 18, 22-29, and 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelnur et al. (US 6,429,882) in view of Friedman et al. (US 6,167,455).

Claim 2: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the command is a command object. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses linking command objects (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to designate the command as a command object in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to designate the command as a command object to enable the command object to manage a specific function on a specific target data object.

Claim 3: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1

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above, but does not explicitly disclose the command is associated with state. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command objects are associated with delete states (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made at the time the invention was made to associate the command with a state in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to associate the command with state in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

Claim 4: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 3 above, but does not explicitly disclose the command state is derived from the source. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command objects are created in the source context which is based on state (column 2, lines 27-47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made derive the command state from the source in Abdelnur. One would have been motivate to derive the command state from the source in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

Claim 5: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 3

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above, but does not explicitly disclose the command state is associated with an ability to be executed. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command states are associated with an ability to be executed (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to associate command states with an ability to be executed in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to associate command states with an ability to be executed in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

Claim 6: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 3 above, but does not explicitly disclose the command state is associated with an inability to be executed. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command states are associated with an inability to be executed (column 2, lines 27-47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to associate command states with an inability to be executed in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to associate command states with an inability to be executed in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

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Claim 7: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, that further discloses the command is stateless (column 9, lines 55-67).

Claim 8: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, that further discloses the command is a method (column 6, lines 1-6).

Claim 11: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the at least one binding statement comprises an indication of a data source. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further discloses command objects are linked (bound) in view of source context (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to allow the at least one binding statement to comprise an indication of a data source in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include an indication of a data source in the binding statement in order to allow for the synchronization of command objects with target elements.

Claim 12: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1



above, but does not explicitly disclose the at least one binding statement comprises a binding path. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further discloses command objects are linked in view of the context where the action is targeted (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a binding path with the at least one binding statement in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a binding path in the at least one binding statement to indicate the destination of the binding statement.

Claim 13: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the data binding engine queries into a graph of objects, comprising at least a first object and a second object wherein the first object points to the second object. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further discloses linking individual command objects, where command objects are created asynchronously in the source context and the target context, with the source context command object linked (pointing) to the target context command object (column 2, lines 27-47). Though neither reference explicitly discloses the binding engine queries into a graph of objects, the examiner considers it immaterial as to how the command objects are organized. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to program the data binding engine to query into

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a graph of objects, comprising at least a first object and a second object wherein the first object points to the second object in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to query into a graph of objects for design choice. One would have been motivated to program the first object to point to the second object in order to allow synchronization for the execution of command objects.

Claim 14: Abdelnur and Friedman disclose a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 13 above, and Friedman further discloses the second object is a command object (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to designate the second object as a command object in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to designate the second object as a command object in order to allow synchronization for the execution of command objects.

Claim 15: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, further comprising the command comprises an object associated with an executable method (column 6, lines 1-6), but does not explicitly disclose a Boolean state associated with an ability or inability of an execution method associated with the command object to be executed. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further

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discloses each command object includes a Boolean variable that indicates the current state of the command object, which indicates whether the command is done (inability of execution) or undone (ability of execution). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to program the command to comprise a Boolean state in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to program the command to comprise a Boolean state in Abdelnur to ensure execution synchrony between linked command objects.

Claim 16: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, that further discloses the target is a user interface (column 2, lines 57-61).

Claim 17: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the source comprises a collection of state of an underlying application. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further discloses the software application manages a number of contexts that control the state of the menu application (column 4, lines 40-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a collection of state of an underlying state in the source in Abdelnur. One would have

been motivated to include a collection of state of an underlying application in the source to provide a context sensitive source

Claims 18 and 35: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, comprising:

a. receiving at least one binding statement that defines a mapping between the command and the target (column 12, lines 18-31);

Abdelnur does not explicitly disclose determining a value of the command, however Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further discloses each command object includes a Boolean variable (value) that indicates the current state of the command object (column 5, lines 55-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to determine a value of the command in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to determine a value of the command to specify the execution of the command.

Abdelnur discloses an update command that updates the attributes of an object (column 9, lines 55-57), which in this case suggests updating the target to the values of the command, as recited in Claims 18 and 35.

Claim 22: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18

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above, but does not explicitly disclose the command is an object associated with state.

Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command objects are associated with delete states (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made at the time the invention was made to associate the command with a state in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to associate the command object with state in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

Claim 23: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 22 above, but does not explicitly disclose the command state is derived from a data source.

Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command objects are created in the source context which is based on state (column 2, lines 27-47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made derive the command state from the source in Abdelnur. One would have been motivate to derive the command state from a data source in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

Claim 24: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 22

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above, but does not explicitly disclose the command state is associated with an ability to be executed. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses command states are associated with an ability to be executed (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to associate command states with an ability to be executed in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to associate command states with an ability to be executed in order to designate the commands as context sensitive.

Claim 25: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, that further discloses the command is stateless (column 9, lines 55-67).

Claim 26: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, that further discloses the command is a method (column 6, lines 1-6).

Claims 27 and 36: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claims 18 and 35 above, but does not explicitly disclose monitoring a collection of objects comprising a data source for a change notification. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform

command binding, that further discloses command objects that are created in a source context and determining a delete state (change notification) for the command objects when processing for execution. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to monitor a collection of objects comprising a data source for a change notification in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to monitor a collection of objects for a change notification in order to synchronize the operation of linked command objects.

Claims 28 and 37: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claims 18 and 35 above, but does not explicitly disclose in response to detecting the change notification, querying into a graph of objects of the data source to determine an updated value of the command. Friedman discloses a similar method and system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding, that further discloses in response to detecting the change notification, comparing the updated state of the first command object with its linked command object (column 2, lines 27-47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to querying into a graph of objects of the data source to determine an updated value of the command in response to detecting the change notification in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to determine an updated value of the command in response to detecting the change notification in order to synchronize the operation of linked command objects.

Claim 29: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 28 above, further comprising updating the target mapped to the command to the updated value of the command (column 9, lines 55-67).

Claim 34: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, further comprising the target is an element of a user interface (column 2, lines 57-61).

Claim 38: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, further comprising updating the user interface element associated with the command to the updated value of the command (column 12, lines 18-31).

6. Claims 9, 10, and 30-33 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelnur et al. (US 6,429,882) in view of Matsutsuka (US 2002/0026447).

Claim 9: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 1 above, but does not explicitly disclose the at least one binding statement comprises a



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statement in a declarative markup language. Matsutsuka discloses a similar system for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that uses an XML binding engine (page 5, paragraph 98). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a statement in a declarative markup language in the at least one binding statement in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a statement in a declarative markup language in order to allow the data to be shared across the Internet.

Claim 10: Abdelnur and Matsutsuka disclose a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 9 above, and Matsutsuka further discloses an XML binding engine, and supporting XML (page 5, paragraph 98). Additionally, the Examiner considers it immaterial as to which markup language is used to define the statement, and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use HTML, XML, or XAML as the declarative markup language in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a statement in a declarative markup language in order to allow the data to be shared across the Internet.

Claim 30: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, but does not explicitly disclose the at least one binding statement comprises a declarative statement in a markup language. Matsutsuka discloses a similar system for

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an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that uses an XML binding engine (page 5, paragraph 98). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a statement in a declarative markup language in the at least one binding statement in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a declarative statement in a markup language in order to allow the data to be shared across the Internet.

Claim 31: Abdelnur and Matsutsuka disclose a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 30 above, and Matsutsuka further discloses an XML binding engine, and supporting XML (page 5, paragraph 98). Additionally, the Examiner considers it immaterial as to which markup language is used to define the statement, and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use HTML as the declarative markup language in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a statement in a declarative markup language in order to allow the data to be shared across the Internet.

Claim 32: Abdelnur and Matsutsuka disclose a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 30 above, and Matsutsuka further discloses an XML binding engine, and supporting XML (page 5, paragraph 98). Additionally, the Examiner considers it immaterial as to which markup language is used to define the statement, and it would

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have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use XML as the declarative markup language in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a statement in a declarative markup language in order to allow the data to be shared across the Internet.

Claim 33: Abdelnur and Matsutsuka disclose a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 30 above, and Matsutsuka further discloses an XML binding engine, and supporting XML (page 5, paragraph 98). Additionally, the Examiner considers it immaterial as to which markup language is used to define the statement, and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use XAML as the declarative markup language in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to include a statement in a declarative markup language in order to allow the data to be shared across the Internet.

7. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelnur et al. (US 6,429,882) in view of Weber et al. (US 6,889,180).

Claim 19: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, but does not explicitly disclose in response to determining that the at least one binding statement fails to evaluate, the value of the command is set to null. Weber

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discloses a similar method and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command bindings that further discloses if a signal fails to evaluate, setting the value of that input (command) to a null value (column 4, lines 26-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the value of the command to null in response to determining that the at least one binding statement fails to evaluate in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to return a value of null if the binding statement fails to evaluate in order to notify the system that the binding operation did not execute.

Claim 20: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, but does not explicitly disclose in response to determining that the at least one binding statement fails to evaluate, the value of the command is set to a default value. Weber discloses a similar method and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command bindings that further discloses if a signal fails to evaluate, setting the value of that input (command) to a null value (column 4, lines 26-43). The null value in this case is a default value. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to set the value of the command to a default value in response to determining that the at least one binding statement fails to evaluate in Abdelnur. One would have been motivated to return a default value for design choice.

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8. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdelnur et al. (US 6,429,882) in view of Nickles (US 5,974,569).

Claim 21: Abdelnur discloses a method, computer program product, and apparatus for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding as in Claim 18 above, but does not explicitly disclose in response to determining that the value of the command is null, the target is disabled. Nickles discloses a similar system and method for an application of a data-binding mechanism to perform command binding that further discloses checking for a null value and returning an error message if the null value is returned (column 14, lines 1-15). Though neither reference explicitly discloses disabling the target if the value of the command is determined to be null, it would have been obvious to disable the target since the binding statement did not designate a target. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to disable to target in response to determining that the values of the command is null in Abdelnur. One would have been motivate to disable the target in response to determining that the value of the command is null in order to improve system efficiency.

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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- a. Calder et al. (US 6,826,759): Method and apparatus for discovering and activating software components;
- b. Haff (US 5,083,262): Language bindings for graphics functions to enable one application program to be used in different processing environments;

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Abdul-Ali whose telephone number is 571-270-1694. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri(Alternate Fridays Off) 8:30 - 6:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

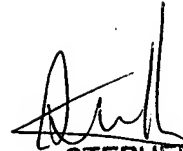
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Hong', is positioned above the printed name.

STEPHEN HONG  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER